

### Course Overview

The goal of the theater program is to help students become better people. The theater program stresses theater as a form of communication within a cultural and historical context. Students will learn technical skills with which to express themselves, as well as a vocabulary to discuss their own artistic vision and the visions of others. We will introduce students not only to the art of theater-making, but to the many rewards of theater-going, of time spent in the company of artists making art, right now, right in front of their eyes. We will cultivate in our students a lifelong appreciation of theater, and the arts in general, as a means of personal and cultural expression.

Some of the questions that will guide us throughout the year are:

What does improvisation for the theater teach us about developing a character, and acting in an ensemble?

How does acting teach us empathy?

What does acting teach us about how the behavior of other people affects us, and how our behavior affects others?

Shakespeare: How has William Shakespeare influenced modern theatre and language?

### Supplies

1. One yellow spiral notebook (provided by Ms. Kolb)
2. Pencils or pens (any color but red), 1 highlighter

### Texts

Texts will be a collection of excerpts and handouts that should go directly into the notebook. Any scripts provided will be bound for you.

### Classroom/Rehearsal Expectations

It is important in a theatre class to support your fellow actors/classmates. We are creating a safe environment in which actors will be free to let go and step outside of their comfort zones. In order to have a successful, productive and fulfilling year of theatre, please take note of the following:

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated. This will show that you not only respect others, but you respect yourself.
2. No distractions from learning. No destructive comments about anyone or anything. In order for this year to become successful a few things must happen:
  - a. BE ON TIME!!!
  - b. Take yourself seriously.

- c. Come to class ready to learn.
- d. Allow others to learn.

### Consequences

If a student cannot abide by the rules as outlined, penalties can range from failing for the day, to being dismissed from class with a phone call home.

### Rewards

I am eager to spot excellent work. I will recognize and celebrate student success!

### Grading Policies

Your grade will be determined in the following way:

- 30% - Class Participation and performances
- 25% - Critical theater reviews
- 25% - Quizzes / Projects
- 20% - Homework

The above rubric is an estimation of how your grade will be determined. The instructor reserves the right to take into account other factors such as improvement, effort, and other intangible factors when determining your course grade.

### Class Participation

Participation is a collective term that encompasses attendance, preparedness, volunteering in class, and asking questions pertinent to the topic of conversation. All of these things together are an indicator of your commitment to and effort in the course. Utilize them all! Class participation is a habit which can easily be learned.

Students can earn up to ten daily points for:

- 1.) Engaging in improv games, scene work, etc. with enthusiasm, commitment and curiosity.
- 2.) Being on time in dress code
- 3.) Having completed homework turned in
- 4.) Participating productively. This means:
  1. Concentration is focused on the task at hand
  2. Notes are taken without verbal cue
  3. Asking pertinent, appropriate questions
  4. Actively listening to and responding to teachers and peers

Participation points will be totaled daily and weekly.

### Theater Reviews

Students will be required to attend at least 4 plays throughout the year- two per semester. Students will have the opportunity to go see the plays with Ms. Kolb should they like, but there will be four due before the end of each semester. With each performance, students will be expected to write a typed reflection.

### Projects & Quizzes

Students will be given the opportunity to work on the projects during class and will also be expected to work on their projects outside of class, should it be necessary. Project guidelines and rubrics will be provided with the assignment of each project.

There will be regularly announced quizzes. In effort to keep students studying on a daily basis and to ensure success on the unit exams, students can expect to have anywhere from 3 to 10 quizzes per unit.

### Homework

Homework will be assigned most evenings and will be collected or spot-checked the day after. Homework must: 1.) Be written neatly or typed, 2.) Have your name and due date in the right hand corner, 3.) Be in on time! I will not take late work except in exceptional circumstances. Students will keep the completed, checked, and corrected homework to assist with studying in the “graded material” section of the notebook.

Because there is no textbook, it is imperative that students keep an organized notebook at all times.

### Administrative Policies

#### Attendance & Lateness

You are expected to arrive on time and prepared for each class meeting.

Attendance is vital to your success in this class. Since your tests are based on what is covered in class and on homework, our time is very valuable together. The policy on absences is necessarily strict: unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation points for that day (this includes absences as a result of any disciplinary action). Students, not parents, are responsible for the completion of their own homework. To obtain the information presented in class on a day when the student is absent, student must find a peer from his or her class and make a photocopy of the daily notes. Students are responsible for all homework, tests, quizzes, and projects assigned on a day when they are absent and must make them up on their own time.

An excused absence will not count against you. An excused absence is an emergency or sickness, properly documented by a note from your parent or guardian. Projects and quizzes may be made up during your free time before school, after school, during study hall, or at the teacher's discretion. Homework will be made up at home. The student will have the same number of days to make up the homework as he or she was absent. Once we begin rehearsals, it is imperative to let me know immediately if you will be missing class- we will need to keep rehearsals running smoothly!

#### Late Assignments

Projects will be marked down by 20% for each class period they are late. Projects submitted more than four days after original due date will automatically earn a zero. Tests must be made up after school during office hours and pre-arranged by the student.

#### Submission of Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted in hard-copy only unless it is a paper. Email attachments will not be accepted otherwise.

Papers may be submitted typed. Formatting for papers are Times New Roman 12pt font, double-spaced, with normal margins (1-inch top and bottom margin and 1.25 inch left and right margin). If you do not have access to a computer, we will find access for you.

#### Thinking Ahead to High School:

##### High School Recommendations:

If you are considering attending high school elsewhere and need a recommendation from your teacher, you **must** provide **two weeks** notice, and provide a **self-addressed, self-stamped envelope** for the school. If the recommendation is to be filled out online, the request must be sent to me via email two weeks in advance. Be sure that you fill out all parts of the recommendation that need to be completed by a student or guardian first. I will mail all recommendations directly to the school; for confidentiality purposes, I cannot return forms to you.

Also, please keep courtesy in mind. I prefer that you, the student, ask me in person to complete a recommendation. I will not complete recommendations that I find on my desk or in my mail folder, unless you have already asked me to complete one.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Theater signatures

Please sign and date the following then detach and return this sheet to the teacher.

I have read and understand the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Theater syllabus. I understand the course overview, what supplies I am expected to have, the grading rubric, and administrative policies. I will take care to work to make this class great.

Printed Student Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Print Guardian Name

Date

Guardian Signature

Date